

IN THE CLAIMS

1-3 (canceled)

4. (new): A washing brush element designed to be axially coupled to a plurality of like washing brush elements for making a washing brush assembly for use in automatic motor vehicle washing systems, each said washing brush element comprising a cylindric ring body having a central longitudinal axis and a side cylindric outer surface, on said cylindric outer surface being defined a plurality of separated adjoining seats each for fixedly receiving therein a cleaning closed cell or felt material band element, said band element comprising an elongated substantially rectangular flat body having an end portion thereof fixedly restrained in a respective said seat of said cylindric body, each said band element being so longitudinally cut as to define a plurality of adjoining substantially flat and parallel different length cleaning bristles, wherein said seats are diagonal seats having a length smaller than a diameter of said cylindric ring body and such an inclination with respect to said central longitudinal axis of said cylindric ring body that, with said cylindric ring body in a vertical non driven condition thereof, each said band element will fall so as to overlap on and partially contact an adjoining like band element, said inclination being such that each said band element has a length larger by substantially 25% than a length of an imaginary like band element arranged in a direction parallel to said central longitudinal axis of said cylindric ring body.

5. (new): A washing brush element, according to claim 4, wherein each said band element has a different color.